

VZCZCXRO3799  
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK RUEHMOS  
DE RUEHGB #0768/01 0681632  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 091632Z MAR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3193  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 000768

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2016

TAGS: [PINS](#) [PREF](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF ATTACKS DRIVING FAMILIES OUT OF BAGHDAD  
COMMUNITIES

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S. Ford for  
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: A group of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Shia community in Nahrawan, east of Baghdad, told Poloff March 6 that hundreds of families had moved out of Nahrawan under threat from Sunni Arab terror groups. A USAID contractor NGO with substantial field expertise in migration and displacement separately estimated that several hundred families have been displaced by sectarian fighting during the past several weeks. The number of individuals affected reaches into the thousands, the NGO director told us March 8. The Sadr movement appears to be readying to offer assistance - an old trick in the political Islamists' playbook. End Summary.

-----  
Terror and Threats in Nahrawan  
-----

¶2. (C) On March 6, Council of Representatives (CoR) and Dawa member Ali al-Deeb hosted a group of Shia from Nahrawan, an area in eastern Baghdad Governorate on the border of the Diyala Governorate, in a short meeting with Poloff. According to the group, Sunni insurgents, whom they claim are from Diyala, operate in an area near the town of Nahrawan north of the Kut-Baghdad Highway and east of the old Baquba highway.

¶3. (C) According to the delegation, the insurgents possess modern weaponry and are terrorizing the Shia communities. They explained in meticulous detail, drawing a careful map, insurgent locations and common graves in the Nahrawan area. They also claimed that an insurgent court in the village of Nakeeb would haul in Shia, try them and summarily execute them. (They cited the alleged location of this court exactly on the map which is now in the possession of Coalition Forces.) They claimed that informers live along the Old Baquba road and let insurgents know when anyone (particularly, a Shia target) is approaching. They alleged that 47 Shia recently were killed at the Kafan Crossing, and the insurgents, including the wife of Zarqawi, are based in the village of Al-Tahweela Al-Daeniya.

¶4. (C) They estimated that because of terror threats 300 Shia families had left the area and moved to the south in the past several weeks. (NOTE: This is an unconfirmed estimate and could be lower or higher. END NOTE). They told Poloff that the village residents are outgunned, and requested immediate assistance to permanently drive out the insurgents.

¶5. (C) The delegates stated that the Iraqi Military Police, which are stationed near the town of Nahrawan, are undermanned, outgunned, and in possession of only one vehicle. They pleaded for stronger protection from the

Iraqi security forces and the American army; the patrols are, they claimed, too infrequent to offer effective protection.

-----  
Western NGO: Baghdad-area Displacements Serious  
-----

¶6. (C) These sources and others have told us about the flight of persons from Nahrawan. A USAID/OFDA partner reported to us on March 6 about a surge in sectarian displacements following the February 22 mosque bombing in Samara. The NGO reports Shia moving from Sunni-dominated areas to Shia dominated Shu'la, Sadr City, Najaf, Karbala, and Hilla. (The NGO even gave us copies of some of the threat letters that Shia families now in Shu'la received) Sunnis are similarly displacing to Sunni-dominated areas like Abu Ghreib, Latefeya, Yousefeya. Per the NGO:

28 families (168 people) have displaced to Diyala:

- 3 families (18 people) from Abu Sada to Jezar Jool
- 5 Families (30 people) from Bohrouz to Hay Al Moalemin
- 1 family (6 people) from Moqdadiyah to Khan Biby Saed
- 3 families (18 people) from Kirkuk to Al Ghatun
- 2 families (12 people) from Al Ghatun to Hay Moalemin
- 10 families (60 people) from Abu Karma to Ahan Biny Saad
- 1 family (6 people) from Al Auwdar to Al Maleb

BAGHDAD 00000768 002 OF 002

- 18 people from Khanaqin to Khan Biny Saad

828 families (4,968 people) have displaced to Baghdad:

-- 308 families (1,848 people) have displaced from Abu Ghreib, Al Yousefeya, Al Taji, Sabe' Al-boor, Al Tarmeya, Falluja, Al Mashahda, Ghazaleya, and Baeya'a to Shu'la;

-- 400 families (2,400 people) have displaced from Al Nahrawan, Latefeya, Abu Ghreib, Falluja, and Al Dora to Sadr City;

-- 120 families (720 people) have displaced from Nahrawan to Al-Ma'amil and Al Sa'ada:

535 families have displaced to Najaf:

-- 95 families (570 people) have displaced from Al Doora, Saidia, and Amereya to Najaf;

-- 440 families (3,210 people) from Tal Afar, Diyala, and Baghdad displaced to Najaf - Hay Al Rahma Sector (note: this happened before the Samarra bombing).

¶7. (C) (Comment: USAID/OFDA has a high degree of confidence in this NGO which has a proven track record of accurate reporting. The NGO compiled statistics on displacement based on interviews with local officials, which it then verified with site visits by NGO staff to confirm the numbers present. This is not a comprehensive survey of displacement but rather a snapshot of known displacements. End Comment.)

¶8. (C) This NGO reports that the Office of the Martyr Sadr (OMS) is using public buildings to house the displaced, especially in the area of Shu'la. However, so far only small numbers of families are settled in public buildings with the majority the IDPs finding housing with other families in the local community. USAID/OFDA and State/PRM

have a limited ability to fill the assistance gap for these IDPs given the current budget environment. USAID/OFDA reports a spike in sectarian displacement followed the Samara bombing. The displacement trend seems to have peaked for now, but is sharply higher than it was six months ago.

-----  
Comment  
-----

19. (C) The OMS' move to provide assistance to refugees is reminiscent of what Hizballah did in Lebanon and the Islamic Salvation Front did in Algeria. It is especially effective when the Iraqi Government is unable to respond. A senior Iraqi Islamic Party official told us March 9 that several dozen Sunni Arab families have fled from predominantly Shia neighborhoods over the past couple of weeks. The IIP official said they were preparing to stand up a tent city on the grounds of the Ibn Taymiya mosque in West Baghdad.  
KHALILZAD